

## BOOK REVIEWS

**RENAL DISEASES.** By E. T. Bell, M.D., Professor of Pathology in the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Second Edition, thoroughly revised, with 123 illustrations and four color plates. Lea & Febiger, Philadelphia, 1950. \$8.00.

This new edition of the well-known monograph first published in 1946 is up to the high standard set by its predecessor in presenting thoroughly and authoritatively certain pathological features of various renal diseases. There are many fine illustrations and the book is in general well printed. There may be some question, however, regarding the thoroughness of the revision. Tabular material has been enlarged by the added years of the author's experience, and a few new illustrations are presented (the newer staining techniques have apparently not been used). A relatively small number of references to current writings have been added to the bibliographies (the work of Addis and Oliver is not cited in the chapter on glomerulonephritis). The chief changes appear in the chapters on tubular diseases and extrarenal azotemia; the concept of lower nephron nephrosis is discussed as such in a few short paragraphs. Perhaps the author, as a pathologist, should not be criticized for his unwillingness to recognize the recent revolution in the concept of pathogenesis of edema; much of the section on renal physiology is out of date. One finds very little discussion of the lesions of periarteritis nodosa or of disseminated lupus erythematosus (the latter is classified as a specific infection of the kidneys), and in general the author avoids discussion of unusual or poorly understood renal diseases; this seems a pity, for such an authority might have been helpful to one searching for enlightenment.

Despite these criticisms, the work is highly recommended to medical students and physicians for its extensive, conservative, factual and unimaginative presentation of such standard diseases as developmental anomalies, obstruction and infection, glomerulonephritis and related lesions, and hypertensive disease.

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**WHEN MINDS GO WRONG—A Simple Story of the Mentally Ill—Past, Present and Future.** By John Maurice Grimes, M.D., twenty years a psychiatrist. Four years a staff member of the Council on Medical Education and Hospitals of the American Medical Association. Published by the Author, 5209 S. Harper Avenue, Chicago 15, Illinois. 1950. \$5.00.

Although there is no doubt whatever that the state hospitals throughout this country are in need of improvement, it is unlikely that this book will be effective in helping to bring about such reforms. The style employed by the author serves to prejudice his case from the outset, so that the reader is inclined to wonder more about the reasons for the author's frequent changes of employment than the justice of the cause which he has espoused. This is unfortunate, since many of the ideas set forth are valuable, and if followed through might well improve the care of the mentally ill. Particularly is this true of the appraisal of the type of individual who gravitates into employment as an attendant in a mental hospital. The stories of brutality set forth by the author have been amply confirmed in the press. How to rectify the situation is not, however, as simple as the author would like to infer. One thing that can be wholeheartedly subscribed to, however, is the segregation of those who may benefit from treatment from the chronic custodial problems. Although a start has been made in this direction, one cannot truthfully say that most of Dr. Grimes' accusations are not well grounded in fact.

**FREUD: DICTIONARY OF PSYCHOANALYSIS.** Edited by Nandor Fodor, Associate of the Association for the Advancement of Psychotherapy, and Frank Gaynor, Co-Author of the "Dictionary of Industrial Psychology." Philosophical Library, New York. 208 pages. 1950. \$3.75.

This book is recommended by the publishers as a genuine storehouse of information for the layman, and a useful reference work for the psychologist, psychiatrist, and psychoanalyst. It consists of quotations from the works of Freud, but good judgment is not always used in their choice. For example, the definition of depression, cyclical, is extracted from Freud's contribution on "Group Psychology and the Analysis of the Ego," and that of melancholia in another place from his book "New Introductory Lectures on Psychoanalysis," and from neither does one gather any clear definition of melancholia, nor is it indicated that depression and melancholia are one and the same. Quotations are literally torn out of context so that one gets no clear idea of many of the terms defined. Certainly the definition of affectivity as "Affectivity manifests itself essentially in motor (i.e., secretory and circulatory) discharge resulting in an (internal) alteration of the subject's own body without reference to the outer world," or of beauty as "Beauty is an instance which plainly shows that culture is not simply utilitarian in its aims, for the lack of beauty is a thing we cannot tolerate in civilization," or of traumatic hysteria as "In regard to traumatic hysteria it is obviously the accident which has evoked the syndrome," or of conscious, consciousness, as "Being conscious is an ephemeral quality which adheres to a psychical process only temporarily"—certainly such definitions add little to our knowledge of Freud's concepts and often sound like gibberish when pulled out of context.

If the layman or non-analytic physician wishes to have psychoanalytic terms defined, he would find this much better done in a general psychiatric dictionary than here; and the psychologist, psychiatrist and psychoanalyst would do better to go to the original source. Moreover, the key to references which mentions the various works from which these quotations have been torn does not mention the dates the papers were written, and as a result the uninitiated reader has no idea how Freud's ideas may have changed over the many years of his numerous publications.

This volume will not always give the reader a clear conception of psychoanalytic terms as defined by Freud and cannot be recommended for this purpose.

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**LABORATORY MANUAL FOR PHARMACOGNOSY.** By Edward P. Claus, Ph.D., Professor of Pharmacognosy, University of Pittsburgh, School of Pharmacy. Second Edition. 111 pages. The C. V. Mosby Company, St. Louis, 1950. \$3.25.

This is a laboratory manual for the use of pharmacy students in their study of medicinal agents. It is set up in the form of individual monographs for the different drugs, each consisting of a few paragraphs which describe the derivation of the product and suggest to the student what particular characteristics it may have so that he can recognize it easily. U.S.P. identification tests are usually added.

The agents described are almost all of plant origin, and include many which are of little modern medical interest. For instance, a random opening of the book shows the following substances described consecutively over a few pages: poplar bud, salacin, vanilla, vanillin, cochineal, carmine, gentian, chrysarobin.

The manual should be satisfactory and useful to pharmacy students, but would have little interest for medical students.